4. Allowing mobility of researchers from CSIR to industry/R&D institutions and vice versa for seamless transfer of knowledges and learning of newer skills;

5. Providing flexibility to CSIR in ownership right of intellectual property and/or knowledgebase for closer interaction with industry; and

6. Promoting CSIR as an innovation centric organization by allowing CSIR scientists to setup venture companies while being in service.

Action Plan on desalination units

2222. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have unveiled a 7-point action plan on desalination units in some States proposed to be implemented during the next 12 months;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether Government have also created an autonomous board of science and engineering research, which would create a pool of 1,000 scientific positions for young researchers in India and abroad; and

(d) if so, the modalities worked out so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government have not unveiled any 7-point action plan on desalination units. However, the Government have been making concerted efforts for availability of safe drinking water by making technological intervention for water purification including desalination. Under these efforts, desalination units have been set up in Lakshadweep, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. No autonomous board of science and engineering research has been created so far. The recommendation of Science Advisory Council to Prime Minister (SAC-PM) for setting up such an autonomous board/foundation is at the stage of inter-ministerial consultations.